



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

414 / 297-1700

Milwaukee, WI 53202

TTY 414 / 297-1088

NEWS SUMMARY:

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that Assistant United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling had been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and, as such, would be responsible, in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters, for overseeing the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses.

United States Attorney Biskupic explained that this appointment was part of a nationwide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative announced by Attorney General Ashcroft in October 2002. The goals of this Initiative are to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute election-related offenses wherever they occur.

United States Attorney Biskupic explained that in order to respond to any complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, AUSA Rick Frohling, AUSA Greg Haanstad, and AUSA Lisa Warwick will be on duty throughout the election process. They can be reached by the public at (414) 297-1700. The FBI also will have Special Agents available to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses. The FBI can be reached by the public at (414) 276-4684. In addition, complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or (202) 307-2767.

In explaining his office's efforts, United States Attorney Biskupic said, "Election fraud and voting rights abuses dilute the worth of votes honestly cast. They also corrupt the essence of our representative form of government. As crimes against both the individual and the government, they will be dealt with promptly and aggressively." United States Attorney Biskupic encouraged anyone who may have specific information suggesting electoral corruption or voting rights abuses to report that information to his Office or the FBI.

United States Attorney Biskupic explained that while state and local authorities generally serve as the front line in combating election fraud, a federal prosecution might be warranted in the following situations:

- Conduct designed to corrupt a federal election. If the object of the criminal conduct was to corrupt the outcome of a federal election, a federal investigation and/or prosecution may be warranted.

-

- Civil rights. Where the object of the fraud was to discriminate against racial, ethnic, or language minority groups, there is a paramount federal interest.
- Prosecutor of last resort. Federalization may be required in order to address long-standing patterns of electoral fraud, either at the request of state or local authorities, or because those authorities appear unwilling or unable to respond to a specific complaint. In some circumstances, state or local authorities also may lack the financial or personnel resources to pursue certain investigations.
- Links to other crimes. There also may be a need to federalize where there is reason to believe that the conduct at issue is connected to other forms of criminal activity.

#

For more information contact:

Assistant United States Attorney Rick Frohling
Assistant United States Attorney Greg Haanstad
Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Warwick
414-297-1700